

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this response has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 22-48 are in the present application. No claims have been amended. It is submitted that these claims were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

Claims 22-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,434,748 to Shen et al. (hereinafter, merely "Shen") in view of U.S. Patent 5,530,754 to Garfinkle.

Claim 48 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Shen.

Applicants respectfully submit that Shen is not prior art under any of the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §102, as required in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Shen is entitled to an earliest filing date based on domestic priority of December 23, 1994. However, the present invention is entitled to foreign priority based on two applications filed in Japan on August 31, 1994 and October 14, 1994. Certified copies of the priority documents can be found in the parent application, Serial No. 08/250,564, filed August 28, 1995. Applicants are submitting with this response verified English translations of the Japanese priority documents.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the outstanding rejections based upon Shen are overcome, and submit that claims 22-48 are patentable.

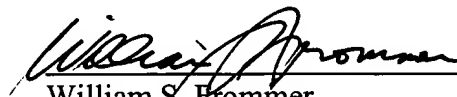
In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this response, but if such are, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
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